wide, the temperature of the canal was higher than natural, and the secretion from its mucous membrane increased. Through the anterior vaginal wall pressed a round firm tumour, which was movable with difficulty, and behind was continued in the vaginal portion, bent at an angle and directed towards the point of the coccyx. There was constipation, and the patient vomited ten or fifteen times daily, especially when fasting, a greenish mucus in no great quantity; there was no nausea, and the matter was discharged suddenly, as if by eructations. The pulse was normal; the patient only complained of occasional dizziness which lasted for one or two minutes, and which came on when she sat up in bed.

An absence of the other symptoms which accompany those diseases, of which vomiting is a symptom, such as acute or chronic gastric catarrh, perforating ulcer, carcinoma of the stomach, paratyphlitis, rendered the diagnosis easy, and the vomiting was accordingly referred to the flexed condition of the pregnant uterus.

Although it was probable, but not certain, that there was an absence of adhesions of the fundus to the posterior wall of the bladder, the prognosis was only doubtful, as when the uterus is replaced it too often again falls over: the prognosis regarding the cessation of the vomiting was dependent upon the greater or less facility of the reposition of the flexed uterus and its retention in its normal situation.

I therefore determined to endeavour to replace the flexed uterus. With this view the urinary bladder was emptied by means of an elastic catheter, and the rectum was cleared out, and as the patient's susceptibility was very inconsiderable, I decided to attempt the replacement of the organ without the help of chloroform. Two pillows were now introduced below the sacrum so as to elevate the pelvic region. The index and middle fingers of the left hand were introduced into the vagina, and pressure was made forwards and upwards. The fundus of the uterus immediately passed upwards, and could be clearly felt through the abdominal parietes. In order to prevent the uterus from falling backwards, the patient was directed to lie upon her face, a position which she kept pretty continuously for several days. The result was most satisfactory. The vomiting, which had occurred six times in the morning of the day when the replacement of the uterus was effected, at once ceased. The patient stated that she experienced instantaneous relief when the replacement of the uterus was effected, and under a nourishing diet she made a rapid and perfect recovery."—*Ed. Med. Journ.*, Feb. 1864, from *Wochenblatt der Zeitschrift der k. k. Gesel. der Aerzte in Wien*, Nos. 47 and 48, 1863.

HYGIENE.

40. *Practicability of Arresting the Development of Epidemic Diseases by the Use of Anti-zymotic Agents.*—Dr. Robinson read a paper on this subject before one of the sections of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at its meeting at New Castle.

The author commenced by referring to the circumstance of the analogy between many of the phenomena of fevers and other zymotic diseases, and the ordinary process of fermentation having been perceived and recognized by Hippocrates and the oldest writers on medicine. Their idea was that a poisonous ferment, existing in the atmosphere, entered the mass of blood and induced in it a series of changes, which gave rise to the excessive heat, and other peculiarities of that class of diseases—at the present time, this doctrine, modified by the discoveries of Liebig and other chemists, has been adopted by most physicians, and forms the basis of the classification of disease framed by Dr. Farr, and used by the Registrar-General. It thus supposes living germs to exist in the atmosphere, which, when introduced into the body, give rise to a specific and regular series of morbid actions, pursuing a definite course in a definite time, as in smallpox—those germs being disclosed and multiplied, and producing others capable of reproducing in other bodies the same succession of changes—other lethologists have supposed that the atmospheric poison acts on the blood chemically, by giving rise to what may be termed catalytic actions—while the author is disposed to believe, from what he saw during the cholera epidemic in Newcastle in 1853, that some of these volatile organic matters in the atmosphere are capable of acting on the human body as direct poisons, and that this inanimate volatile poisonous matter also furnishes nutrition to the organic germs suspended in the air. After these preliminary remarks he proceeded to refer briefly to a number of scattered facts, which seemed to him to indicate the existence of a great principle, which might hereafter be found applicable to the prevention or mitigation of epidemic diseases by the direct use of substances capable of arresting the process of morbific fermentation. He mentioned the following facts as converging to this conclusion: 1. Antiseptic substances, ranging from simple innocuous matters, such as sugar, up to the powerful metallic poisons, such as corrosive sublimate, and forming a very numerous and diversified group, have long been known to be capable of arresting the putrefraction of animal and vegetable structures. 2. The same substances prevent the formation of fungi, as is seen in the use of solutions of metallic salts in the taxidermy in the prevention of dry rot, &c. 3. Many of those agents are also known to arrest at once the process of fermentation, as, for instance, sulphurous acid, and Emi and other chemists have observed under the microscope the rapid stoppage of the vitality of the yeast plant when a solution of arsenious acid was added to the fermenting liquor. 4. The formation of the fungus in and on the plant, which causes the vine disease, is prevented by applying sulphur to the affected vines. 5. In Cornwall it is believed that the arsenical fumes from the tin-calcining furnaces exercised an influence over the potato-plants in the neighbourhood, which preserved them from the disease then affecting other parts of the same county. [A statement to this effect, signed by Captain Charles Thomas, Sen., of Dolwath, and sixteen cottagers, was here read.] 6. It has been found that when a species of fermentation has taken place in the human stomach resulting in the development in large quantities of a minute organism (the sarcina ventriculi), this morbid action can be controlled and stopped by the direct anti-zymotic influence of certain salts, such as sulphate of soda, in doses perfectly compatible with the patient's safety. 7. In different parts of the world, among different races, a belief has long existed that certain antiseptic substances, of which arsenic may be taken as the type, are capable of acting as antidotes or preservative and curative agencies against atmospheric and other poisons, and in some cases that popular belief has proved to be well-founded. The experience of the multitude discovered the value of arsenic as a cure for ague long before it was recognized as such by physicians. The arsenical fumes of certain works in Cornwall were stated by the late Dr. Paris to have stopped the ague, previously endemic there. More recently it has been stated that the arsenic eaters of Styria are peculiarly exempt from fevers and other epidemic diseases. And in India the natives have long used arsenic as an antidote for the poison of snakes. Dr. Robinson concluded by expressing a belief that these scattered observations were not only sufficient to justify and necessitate further inquiries in this direction, but seemed in themselves to shadow forth the outline of a great law which might at some future time be productive of immense benefit to mankind.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Sept. 26, 1863.

41. *Iodine as a Deodorizer and Disinfectant.*—Dr. B. W. RICHARDSON, at one of the recent meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at New Castle, made some remarks on this subject. He said: The iodine should be placed in a common chip-box, such as is employed by pharmaceutists, the lid of the box being replaced by a covering of "leno," or the iodine may be placed in the ornamental vases on the mantle-shelf of a room. The smell of iodine could thus be communicated to the air of an apartment, and air so purified was not only fresh and agreeable to the sense of smell, but any organic matters present in it were destroyed. In extreme cases the iodine should be placed on a dish or plate, and the heat of a candle being applied beneath,